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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,820	11/24/2003	Tsutomu Okada	P/3541-50	8000
2352	7590	02/01/2006	EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN			VRETTAKOS, PETER J	
1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS				
NEW YORK, NY 100368403			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	

DATE MAILED: 02/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,820	OKADA, TSUTOMU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Peter J. Vrettakos	3739	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 10-19 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 10-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is final.

The application is published application number: 2005/0038424.

This case claims priority to Japanese patent application 2002-341001.

Pending claims are 10-19. Claims 10, 16, 18 and 19 are independent. Claims 1-9 are cancelled. This action is response amendments made 11-16-05. The amendment has underscored the claimed invention's loop elasticity. The Office presents arguments in response along with excerpts from the prior art that disclose patented loop elasticity. To this end, the prior rejections stand (however, applied to newly added claims 10-19).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 10,12-14,16,18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Avitall (5,555,883).

Avitall discloses a device (figures 3a, 6b, and 7a) nearly identical to the Applicant's claimed invention. Avitall discloses a sheath (52), an actuating member (18, *inter alia*), **through-hole (76, figure 7)** and a **naturally tilted wire deployable loop (120, 162)**.

Note the similarities in the Applicant's figures 1, 2a, 4 and 6 to Avitall's figures 3a, 6b, and 7a.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avitall in view of Ellis et al. (6,093,185) or Laufer et al. (6,283,988) or Chia et al. (5,897,554).

Avitall is silent regarding dimensions.

However, several other analogous patented inventions disclose dimensions from which the ordinary user would apply in conjunction with routine experimentation to yield the Applicant's claims. The motivation to perform routine experimentation to determine dimensions would be to design an effective surgical device in light of prior surgical devices. Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Avitall in view of Ellis et al. (6,093,185) or Laufer et al. (6,283,988) or Chia et al. (5,897,554) by determining optimal dimensions through routine experimentation.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ellis et al. (6,402,740) (6,093,185) Laufer (6,283,988), Chia et al. (5,897,554), and Avitall (5,263,493) (5,730,704).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11-16-05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Avitall (5,555,883) discloses nitinol/shape memory loops (amongst other elastic materials) in col. 10:1-7, which anticipates the Applicant's claim language toward a loop susceptible to a "returning force" or a loop with an elastic deformable portion.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter J. Vrettakos whose telephone number is 571-272-4775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C. Dvorak can be reached on 571-272-4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pete Vrettakos
January 21, 2006

[Handwritten Signature]

Roy D. Gibson
ROY D. GIBSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER